

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 IO-11 AID-05 SAB-01 SAL-01 DLOS-04

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

OFA-01 OES-05 COME-00 NEA-10 AF-06 FEA-01 EB-07 /104 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2034

USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL RIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 1871

STATE FOR S/PRS PASS NSC FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND WHITE HOUSE
FOR NESSEN POSTS PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY USINFO FOR
IBS/PL & IPS/PL USIA FOR ILA & IOP

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER HENRY A)

SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE

HEREWITH TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY
KISSINGER IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA:

A. MR SECRETARY, YOU SAID DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING
AT LA GUZMANIA, THE PRESIDENTIAL MANSION, THAT ONE OF THE PURPOSES
OF YOUR TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE RESULT THEREOF WOULD BE TO
PROPOSE TO THE US CONGRESS THE ELIMINATION OF THE DISCRIMINATORY
CLAUSE IN THE TRADE ACT THAT NEGATIVELY AFFECTS VENEZUELA AND
ECUADOR. WHAT SPECIFICALLY DO YOU PROPOSE TO TELL CONGRESS SO THAT
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CONGRESS MAY ACCEPT YOUR SUGGESTION? THE SECOND QUESTION IS THAT

YOY ANNOUNCED THAT THE TYPE OF ACTIVITY THAT CUBA HAS ENGAGED IN IN THE CASE OF ANGOLA IS SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, CUBA HAS JUST APPROVED A NEW CONSTITUTION WHEREIN IT SUPPORTS THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES. WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO IN THIS RESPECT?

A. WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST QUESTION, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED TO THE CONGRESS THAT IT OPPOSES THE DISCRIMINATORY ASPECTS OF THE TRADE ACT AS THEY APPLY TO VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR, AND SEVERAL AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED INCLUDING ONE BY SENATOR BENTSEN FROM TEXAS IN THE SENATE WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS BEING CONSIDERED THESE DAYS BY SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO REMOVE THIS PARTICULAR DISCRIMINATORY ASPECT. WHEN I RETURN, I WILL OF COURSE REPORT TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND TO THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND I WILL EMPHASIZE IN STRONG TERMS TO BOTH OF THEM THE UNFORTUNATE IMPACT THAT THESE DISCRIMINATORY PIECES OF LEGISLATION HAVE HAD ON OUR RELATIONSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA. OF COURSE IT OCCURS OCCASIONALLY THAT THE CONGRESS DOES NOT SEE THINGS MY OWN WAY, THOUGH IT IS HARD FOR ME TO CONCEIVE. BUT WE THINK WITH RESPECT TO THESE DISCRIMINATORY LAWS THAT THE PREVALENT MOOD IN THE CONGRESS AGREES WITH THE POSITION THAT I HAVE ADVANCED HERE. SECOND, WITH RESPECT TO CUBA, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MEANING OF THAT PHRASE IS IN THE CUBAN CONSTITUTION. CUBA HAS EVERY RIGHT TO SUPPORT POLITICALLY AND IDEOLOGICALLY WHATEVER IT CHOOSES. HOWEVER, I AM CONVINCED THAT ONCE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT CUBA ASSUMES THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, WE WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY. THIS IS A MATTER WHICH WE HAVE BROUGHT BEFORE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO BRING BEFORE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, AND BEFORE THE CONGRESS.

Q: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY IN THE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH LATIN AMERICA ON THE PART OF THE US. WHY HAS THIS DELAY BEEN SO EXTENDED? IS IT THAT THE US CAN CONCERN ITSELF ONLY WHEN IT HAS MORE TIME ON ITS HANDS THAN IT NEEDS FOR ITS OTHER PRESSING MATTERS, OR IS THERE ANY SPECIFIC REASON FOR THIS ATTENTION SPAN?

A. FIRST OF ALL, THERE HAS NOT BEEN A DELAY IN THAT, AS SOON AS UNCLASSIFIED

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I BECAME SECRETARY OF STATE, I PROPOSED WITHIN A MONTH, WHAT CAME TO BE CALLED THE NEW DIALOGUE, AND A SERIES OF MEETINGS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, AND THEN A SERIES OF MEETINGS OF WORKING GROUPS WHICH WERE INTERRUPTED LAST YEAR AS A RESULT OF ACTIONS WHICH WERE NOT THE DECISION OF OUR ADMINISTRATION, BUT WERE THE RESULT OF THE INTERPLAY OF A CONGRESSIONAL ACT AND THE REACTION OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA, WHICH

REFUSED TO ATTEND THE MEETING WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR BA. THIS WAS ONE REASON WHY I DID NOT TAKE A TRIP WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS; AND THEN THERE WERE TWO OTHER EVENTS LAST YEAR THAT CREATED A CRISIS WHICH UNFORTUNATELY HAD TO BE DEALT WITH URGENTLY. ONE WAS A CRITICAL SITUATION OR A NEED FOR RAPID NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH CAUSED ME TO POSTPONE A TRIP, AND THEN THE OTHER WAS THE COLLAPSE OF VIETNAM WHICH ALSO WAS NOT FORESEEN. I REGRETTED IT PROFOUNDLY AND I STAYED IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. IT IS SOMETIMES THE CASE THAT URGENT PROBLEMS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER IMPORTANT PROBLEMS, BUT IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE IS ANY LACK OF INTEREST OR LACK OF CONCERN IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, I AM THE CORRESPONDENT FOR PRENSA LATINA. MY QUESTION IS: DOES THE INCLUSION OF A VISIT (TO BRAZIL) IN THE COURSE OF YOUR PRESENT TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA MEAN THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO BELIEVE IN PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATEMENT THAT WHEREVER BRAZIL LEANS OR GOES, THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA MIGHT FOLLOW; OR ARE YOU GOING DOWN THERE TO ASK THEM FOR AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT THE RELATIONSHIP MAY HAVE BEEN WITH THE "FRENTE DE LIBERACION DE ANGOLA"(MPLA).

A. WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION, WE CONSIDER BRAZIL AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT COUNTRY, A GREAT COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS. WHAT THE IMPACT IS ON OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IS FOR OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO DECIDE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE MANY AUTHENTIC LEADERS IN LATIN AMERICA, AND THE US WILL NOT APPOINT ONE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY AS THE LEADER OF LATIN AMERICA. THIS IS UP TO THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA TO DECIDE IN WORKING OUT THEIR OWN INTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS. WE BELIEVE WE CAN HAVE FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH MANY OF THE COUNTRIES

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OF LATIN AMERICA. SECONDLY, WITH RESPECT TO THE MPLA, THE US HAS STATED REPEATEDLY THAT OUR OPPOSITION WAS NOT TO THE MPLA. THE US HAS STATED REPEATEDLY THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK WITH ANY AUTHENTIC AFRICAN MOVEMENT OR ANY GOVT THAT EMERGES OUT OF AUTHENTIC AFRICAN GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES. WE RECOGNIZED IMMEDIATELY THE FRELIMO IN MOZAMBIQUE WHICH, IN ITS ORIENTATION, IS SUBSTANTIALLY PARALLEL TO THAT OF THE MPLA. OUR OBJECTION IN ANGOLA WAS THE MASSIVE INTRODUCTION OF THOUSANDS OF CUBAN SOLDIERS AND MASSIVE INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH HAD THE PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCE OF IMPOSING A MINORITY GOVT ON A COUNTRY BY FOREIGN ARMS AND FOREIGN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES SENT FROM THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY. AS FAR AS THE MPLA IS CONCERNED, IN ITS AFRICAN MANIFESTATION WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT WE COULD WORK WITH IT. NOW I AM OBVIOUSLY NOT GOING TO BRAZIL OR TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY ON

THIS TRIP TO CALL THEM TO ACCOUNT FOR ACTIONS THEY HAVE A
RIGHT TO TAKE IN THE SOVERIEGN EXERCISE OF THEIR FOREIGN
POLICY. THEREFORE, THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE WHICH I WILL RAISE.
I AM NOT HERE TO DISCUSS THE PAST. I AM HERE TO DISCUSS THE
FUTURE.

Q: THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION, DR KISSINGER, REGARDING THE
TALKS HELD WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ, THAT YOU DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY
OR THE NEED OF EXPLOITING AND DEVELOPING THE ORINOCO TAR BASIN
IN EXCHANGE FOR TECHNOLOGY.

A. FIRST OF ALL, LET ME SAY THAT THE VERY EXTENSIVE TALKS
I HAD WITH YOUR PRESIDENT WERE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO ME IN
UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEMS OF VENEZUELA AND IN UNDERSTANDING
THE POSSIBILITIES THAT EXIST FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE COOPERATION.
WE DISCUSSED A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. THE PRESIDENT
RAISED WITH ME THE ISSUE OF THE TAR BELT AND DESCRIBED TO ME
THE PLANS HE HAS FOR ANALYZING HOW IT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO VENEZUELAN
DEVELOPMENT. HE DID NOT ASK ME FOR MY OPINION ON THE SUBJECT
AND HE SIMPLY DESCRIBED HIS OWN

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2035

USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 CARACAS 1871

STATE FOR S/PRS; PASS NSC FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND WHITE HOUSE
FOR NESSEN; POSTS PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY; USINFO FOR
IBS/PL & IPS/PL; USIA FIR ILA & IOP

DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH RESPECT TO THIS, AND I LISTENED TO IT WITH
INTEREST AND POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD SIMILAR POSSIBILITIES, AND
WE WERE DEVELOPING, WE WERE LOOKING INTO, THE PROBLEM OF
TECHNOLOGY FOR OURSELVES. BUT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION WHATSOEVER
ABOUT AN EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED
STATES OR ANY CONDITIONS PLACED ON HOW VENEZUELA SHOULD GO
ABOUT DEVELOPING ITS OWN NATIONAL RESOURCES.

Q: (FROM OTILIO GARCIA VILLET, CARACAS RADIO 1090). MR. SECRETARY,
THE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING WITH INTEREST AND
HAVE BEEN ALERT TO THE PROGRESS OF THE CONVERSATIONS THAT ARE
BEING HELD BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA. HOW DO YOU
SEE THESE CONVERSATIONS AT PRESENT? WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE
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OUTCOME?

A: WE ARE ENGAGED IN VERY SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS TO SEE WHETHER
A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY NEW TREATY CAN BE NEGOTIATED. THESE
NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE AND THEY ARE MAKING PROGRESS, AND
THEY WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS BY THE UNITED STATES,
AS THEY HAVE BEEN ALSO BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, THERE IS A REPORT IN THE VENEZUELAN PRESS
THAT YOU ASKED PRESIDENT PEREZ IF HE WOULD LOWER THE PRICE OF
VENEZUELAN OIL IN A WAY SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH IRAN HAS DONE. WAS
THAT SUBJECT RAISED IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS AT ALL?

A: THAT SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP. THE QUESTION OF ENERGY WAS
DISCUSSED, NOT WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO VENEZUELA'S OIL PRICES,
BUT WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF THE RELATION OF
ENERGY TO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, SUCH AS
IS BEING DISCUSSED AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE.

Q: TEOFILO RODRIGUEZ, EL MUNDO NEWSPAPER OF CARACAS.

THERE ARE VIEWS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED THROUGH THE MEDIA IN
VENEZUELA, AND HAVE ALSO BEEN REFLECTED IN COMMUNICATIONS
THROUGH THE NEWS AGENCIES, REGARDING THE EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY
PRECAUTIONS TAKEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY
OF STATE TO VENEZUELA. MY QUESTION IS: COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO US
WHETHER YOU HAD, THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, ANY
INFORMATION OR NEWS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ATTEMPT ON

YOUR LIFE? OR HAS THIS DISPLAY OF U.S. SECURITY AGENTS BEEN
SIMPLY A DEMONSTRATION OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES?

A. I NEVER LOOK AT INFORMATION ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION SO I
AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH ANY PARTICULAR INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO
SECURITY. I ALSO DON'T CONTROL A NUMBER OF SECURITY AGENTS THAT
ACCOMPANY ME. I SUPPOSE THEY FEEL THAT I AM EASILY LONELY AND
THEREFORE TRY TO PREVENT MY USUAL MELANCHOLY FROM EXPRESSING
ITSELF... I'LL PROBABLY LIVE TO REGRET THIS. LET'S MAKE THIS THE
LAST QUESTION.

Q: SALLY GLASS, NBC RADIO NEWS. DR. KISSINGER, IT IS KNOWN THAT
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ONCE THE STRENGTH AND THE SKILL OF THE CUBAN ARMY BECAME APPARENT
IN ANGOLA, THAT AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WERE ASKED TO CONSULT WITH
THEIR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. DOES THAT MEAN THAT SOME KIND OF JOINT
POLICY OR AGREEMENT IS BEING WORKED OUT WITH REFERENCE TO FUTURE
MILITARY INTERVENTIONS LIKE CUBA, SHOULD THERE BE ANY?

A: WE ARE NOT IN THE PROCESS AT THIS MOMENT OF ORGANIZING A JOINT
POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ANY FUTURE CUBAN MOVE. WE ARE STATING,
HOWEVER, THE VIEW OF OUR ADMINISTRATION THAT THIS IS AN UNACCEP-
TABLE MODE OF BEHAVIOR AND WE STATE THIS VIEW IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS. WE ARE NOT VOLUNTEERING IT AND WE ARE NOT ASKING
ANY GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ANY SPECIFIC ACTION AT THIS MOMENT.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, ACCORDING TO CABLES ORIGINATING FROM WASHINGTON,
YOU ARE QUOTED AS STATING THAT COUNTRIES RECEIVING U.S. AID
WOULD HAVE TO AGREE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN INTERNATIONAL
FORUMS. SHOULD THAT BE CONSIDERED SIMPLY A NOTICE OR A THREAT?

A: IT MAY BE THAT YOU HAVE YOUR HARVARD PROFESSORS CONFUSED, BUT
WE ARE NOT BUYING VOTES IN THE UNITED NATIONS. OUR ATTITUDE
TOWARDS COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BY THEIR OVERALL
RELATIONS TO US AND NOT BY EACH INDIVIDUAL VOTE IN THE UNITED
NATIONS.

Q: DR. KISSINGER, I AM ALEJANDRO AGURTO OF VISTAZO MAGAZINE IN
ECUADOR. MY COUNTRY, ECUADOR, IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN CLAIMING A
200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA TOGETHER WITH PERU AND CHILE IN
ORDER TO DEVELOP OUR FISHERIES AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE
SEA. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED
STATES IS IN THE PROCESS OF APPROVING A SIMILAR LAW TO PROTECT
A SIMILAR 200-MILE AREA ALONG THE COAST OF THE U.S. THE SECOND
QUESTION THAT I HAVE IS: IF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD APPROVE
SUCH A LAW, PROVIDING FOR 200 MILES, WOULD THIS MEAN THE END OF
THE PRESENCE OF TUNA BOATS FISHING ALONG OUR COASTAL
BORDERS?

A: WITH RESPECT TO THE 200-MILE ZONE, THE UNITED STATES, IN THE
LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, SUPPORTS A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE,
NOT TERRITORIAL SEA, BUT A 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, AND WE HOPE
THAT WE CAN DELAY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THIS MATTER UNTIL WE
CAN DETERMINE WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
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THAT IS BEGINNING IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCH. I DON'T WANT TO SPE-
CULATE WHAT OUR FISHERMEN WILL DO. THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ECON-
OMIC ZONE IS THAT COUNTRIES CAN REGULATE THE FISHING BY LICENSES
AND OTHER MEANS. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY ARE NECESSARILY
EXCLUDED. THE STRONG HOPE OF OUR ADMINISTRATION IS THAT
THERE WILL BE AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHICH IS EQUALLY APPLI-
CABLE TO ALL COUNTRIES RATHER THAN A SERIES OF UNILATERAL LAWS,
WITH DIFFERENT SHADES OF INTERPRETATION.
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